

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 183

Introduced by Assembly Member Dymally

February 19, 2004

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 183—Relative to Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 183, as introduced, Dymally. Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Month.

This measure would encourage all Californians to become aware of elder and dependent adult abuse, to learn the ways to recognize and report incidents of elder abuse, and to educate themselves on ways to prevent the mistreatment of elderly and dependent adults, and would proclaim the month of May of every year as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California recognizes that senior citizens and
- 2 dependent adults may be subject to neglect and psychological,
- 3 physical, and financial abuse; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The number and percentage of individuals 65
- 5 years of age and older has increased in this country, and so has the
- 6 incidence of elder abuse; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the prevalence and nature of this
- 8 growing problem of elder and dependent adult abuse has generally
- 9 remained hidden from public view; and

1 WHEREAS, It has been estimated that one out of every 20
2 seniors 65 years of age and older will be a victim of some form of
3 abuse; and

4 WHEREAS, Only one in five cases of abuse is reported because
5 the victims are ashamed, helpless, or afraid of the abuser; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the National Center on Elder Abuse,
7 preliminary findings from the 2000 survey of adult protective
8 services agencies in the country found that those agencies received
9 472,813 reports of elder abuse or mistreatment in 2000; and

10 WHEREAS, The mortality rate of an abused adult is three times
11 that of the same age adult who has not been abused; and

12 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adult abuse is a crime that is
13 indiscriminate in its targets, crossing socioeconomic, gender,
14 racial, ethnic, educational, and geographic bounds; and

15 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adults are deserving of
16 special consideration and protection, similar to the special
17 protections provided for minor children, because they are a
18 vulnerable population that is often targeted by predators; and

19 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adult abuse is a community
20 problem, and finding solutions depends on the involvement of
21 people throughout the community; and

22 WHEREAS, United States Senator John Breaux has introduced
23 legislation in the United States Senate, known as the Elder Justice
24 Act, to create a national focus on elder abuse to increase assistance
25 to victims, as well as detection, prevention, and prosecution of
26 elder abuse; and

27 WHEREAS, Recognizing suspected and actual elder and
28 dependent adult abuse through increased awareness is the first step
29 toward the prevention of this type of abuse; and

30 WHEREAS, Private citizens and public agencies must work
31 both independently and collaboratively to combat crime and
32 violence against elder and dependent adults; and

33 WHEREAS, California must ensure that members of its elder
34 generation, who have made many contributions to the state, can
35 live their lives with the dignity and respect they deserve; now,
36 therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
38 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature encourages all
39 Californians to become aware of elder and dependent adult abuse,
40 to learn the ways to recognize and report incidents of elder abuse,



1 and to educate themselves on ways to prevent the mistreatment of
2 elderly and dependent adults, and hereby proclaims the month of
3 May of every year as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse
4 Prevention Month; and be it further
5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
6 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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